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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/002,893

11/14/2001

Song-Hua Shi

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7590

10/15/2003

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EXAMINER

VAN, QUANG T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3742

DATE MAILED: 10/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,893

Applicant(s)

SHI ET AL.

Examiner

Quang T Van

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-19 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9,11-17 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,10 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-24) in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: "662" recited in Figure 6 does not mention in the specification. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. In claim 4, "a energy" recited in line 1 should be changed to "the energy" because it already recited in the previous claim 1, and the term "the microwave source" recited in line 2 should be changed to " a microwave source" for a clear recitation. Correction is required.
4. Claim 9 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In this case, claim 9 is depended to claim 8, which has been cancelled. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

NOTE: For purpose of examination, it is presumed that claim 9 depends on claim 1.

5. In claim 15, "a chip" recited in line 2 should be changed to "the chip" because it already recited in the previous claim 11. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9, 11-17, 19, 21-22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Goto et al (US 6,347,602). Goto discloses a plasma processing apparatus comprising a guiding enclosure (74A) to guide and keep energy from an energy source (86) within the guiding enclosure (74), the guiding enclosure (74) made of a material reflective of the energy from the energy source (col. 7, lines 19-21 or col. 5, line 15), the energy source being an electromagnetic radiation source (86); a supporting piece (60) detachably coupled with the guiding enclosure (74), the supporting piece (60) made of a material transparent to the energy from the energy source (col. 4, lines 61-62); and an absorbing piece (12, 72) coupled to and supported by the supporting piece (60) within the guiding enclosure (74), the absorbing piece (12,72) made of at least one material (col. 5, lines 7-8) that absorbs the energy from the

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energy source and transfers the energy to an object to be heated (col. 1, lines 40-44), a predetermined composition (col. 1, lines 40-41) of the absorbing piece controlling an energy absorption rate of the absorbing piece.

NOTE: It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). In this case, the application claims is claimed directly to the apparatus structure; therefore, no patentable weight is given to the heated object, which is claimed in claims 11-15.

8. Claims 3, 10 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not show or suggest the predetermined composition of the absorbing piece includes more than one material, each material capable of absorbing the energy from the energy source at a different absorption rate as recited in claims 3 and 18; and a holder with a top portion contacting a bottom portion of the guiding enclosure to keep the energy from the energy source within the guiding enclosure as recited in claim 10.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Ishii et al (US 5,698,036) discloses a plasma processing

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apparatus. Imahashi et al (US 6,431,114) discloses a method and apparatus for plasma processing.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang T Van whose telephone number is 703-306-9162. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00Am 7:00Pm M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sang Paik can be reached on 703-308-1147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



QV
October 9, 2003



Quang T Van
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742